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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9722

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

*SEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

REF: A) KABUL 1886, B) KABUL 1940, C) KABUL 1901, D) KABUL 1954, E) KABUL 1932, F) KABUL 1955, G) KABUL 1917

1. (U) FOR ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO
DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TO BRIEF PRESS.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by JS DATE SEP 6 1990

(>) RELEASE (>) DECLASSIFY

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(>) DENY (>) Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions

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2. SUMMARY:

A. (U) TO BE BRIEFED TO THE PRESS: DEVELOPMENTS OF NOTE FOR THE CITY OF KABUL THIS WEEK INCLUDED THE AUGUST 4-7 VISIT OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, THE ARRIVAL OF A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS AT SOVIET/REGIME INVITATION TO COVER ACTIVITIES MARKING THE AUGUST 15 HALFWAY POINT IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN, AND THE VERY QUIET MILITARY SITUATION INSIDE THE CITY FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK. THERE WERE ONLY FOUR CONFIRMED INCIDENTS OF MUJAHIDIN ROCKET STRIKES ON KABUL DURING THE WEEK. IN KABUL PROVINCE, RA FORCES BACKED BY SOVIET TROOPS APPARENTLY KEPT MUJAHIDIN AT BAY IN THE PAGHMAN AREA. HOWEVER, IN THE SHOMALI AND KABUL SOUTH THE REGIME DID LESS WELL. AFGHAN AND OTHER SOURCES REPORT A

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DETERIORATING SITUATION IN JALALABAD. REGIME MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KANDAHAR, LASHKARGAH AND KONDUZ. INTERIOR MINISTER GULABZOI HAS RESURFACED, BUT QUESTIONS CONTINUE ABOUT HIS LONG ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC VIEW. THE REGIME HAS CRITICIZED THE DECISION BY MANY WESTERN EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WITHDRAW THEIR DEPENDENTS. KABUL FACES A FUTURE OF INCREASING POWER SHORTAGES. AN ARTICLE IN HEWAD CLAIMS THERE IS NO AIDS IN AFGHANISTAN.

B. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: SEVERAL MORE RUMORS HAVE APPEARED CONCERNING NAJIBULLAH'S IMMINENT POLITICAL DEMISE, EITHER THROUGH RESIGNATION, MILITARY COUP, OR REPLACEMENT BY CIVILIAN COALITION. RUMORS HAVE ALSO SURFACED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE USE OF POISON GAS—HOWEVER, WE DO NOT REGARD THEM AS CREDIBLE. REPORTS OF SOVIET PRISONERS, INCLUDING A PILOT, HAVE REACHED US FROM WARDAK PROVINCE. END SUMMARY

3. (U) KABUL CITY DEVELOPMENTS: THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST WAS NOTABLE FOR THE AUGUST 4-7 VISIT OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, THE ARRIVAL OF A NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS AT SOVIET/REGIME INVITATION TO COVER ACTIVITIES MARKING THE AUGUST 15 HALFWAY POINT IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN, AND THE INCREASINGLY QUIET MILITARY SITUATION INSIDE THE CITY. THERE WERE ONLY FOUR CONFIRMED INCIDENTS OF MUJAHIDIN ROCKET STRIKES ON KABUL DURING THE WEEK. AT AROUND 1500 ON AUGUST 3, TWO ROCKETS AND PERHAPS MORE HIT NEAR AND IN BASE ONE, THE SOVIET MILITARY ENCAMPMENT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SALANG ROAD. THERE ARE

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CONFLICTING REPORTS ON WHETHER THERE WERE ANY
CASUALTIES. ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 8, ONE ROCKET
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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAF, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

REPORTEDLY STRUCK MIKRORAYON, WHILE TWO LANDED IN KHAIR

KHANA. CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. FINALLY, AT 0050 ON

AUGUST 7, TWO ROCKETS HIT IN KHUSHAL KHAN MINA IN NW

KABUL, AND AT 0510 TWO MORE ROCKETS HIT TO THE NORTH OF

THIS LOCATION. CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. THERE WERE

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UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT DURING THE WEEK AT VARIOUS TIMES SOVIET FORCES NEAR DARULAMAN EXCHANGED ROCKET FIRE WITH MUJAHIDIN IN THE HYDERABAD RANGE IN SW KABUL. ALSO, ON AUGUST 6, TWO ROCKETS STRUCK KARTE NAU IN SW KABUL. REPORTEDLY, AFGHANS FOUND ROCKET CASINGS THERE WHICH HAD SOVIET MARKINGS. DURING THE PAST WEEK, THERE WERE TWO CONFIRMED BOMBINGS, ONE AT 0810 ON AUGUST 4 AT THE SHAHRARA FRUIT MARKET, IN WHICH AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND EIGHTEEN WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO REGIME ACCOUNTS, THE BOMB WAS PLANTED BY MEMBERS OF HEZBI-ISLAMI (GULBUDDIN). AFGHAN SOURCES INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BOMB WENT OFF ACCIDENTALLY WHILE BEING MOVED TO ITS INTENDED LOCATION. THE OTHER CONFIRMED BOMBING INCIDENT INVOLVED A PACKAGE BOMB WHICH WENT OFF IN SHARE NAU PARK, KILLING ONE WOMAN. MEANWHILE, THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN KABUL BECAME LESS AND LESS OBVIOUS AS MORE AND MORE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ARRIVED IN THE CITY. SOVIET TROOPS WERE IN THE STREETS ALONG FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNAZDE'S ROUTE TO AND FROM KABUL AIRPORT ON AUGUST

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4 AND 7, BUT OTHERWISE SOVIET TROOPS WERE NOT AS EASY TO SPOT AS IN PAST WEEKS. ACTIVITY AT SOVIET BASE CAMPS TO THE NORTH WAS LOW AND RA TROOPS TOOK OVER FROM THE SOVIETS A NUMBER OF POSITIONS GUARDING KABUL AIRPORT. THE SOVIETS HAD EARLIER ASSUMED PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIRPORT SECURITY IN THE FACE OF MUJAHIDIN THREATS TO THE NORTHEAST. FINALLY, KABUL WAS HIT BY TWO EARTHQUAKES. THE FIRST, WHICH OCCURRED AT 1014 ON AUGUST 3, WAS RELATIVELY MINOR (ABOUT 5.5 ON THE RICHTER SCALE). THE SECOND, WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM 1335-1336 ON AUGUST 6, WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER AND TEMPORARILY KNOCKED OUT CITY ELECTRICAL POWER. HOWEVER, NO STRUCTURAL DAMAGE WAS OBSERVED.

-- PROVINCE DEVELOPMENTS --

4. (U) KABUL WEST: THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES INTENSIFIED THEIR EFFORTS TO DEFEAT A REPORTED 4,000 MUJAHIDIN (INCLUDING 700 OF MASUD'S MEN) BESIEGING THE TOWN OF PAGHMAN, AND BY THE END OF THE WEEK HAD SOME SUCCESS IN KEEPING THE RESISTANCE AT BAY. ON AUGUST 1, SOVIET/REGIME FORCES CLOSED OFF THE KARGHA DAM AREA, AND CONTINUED A STEADY ROCKETING, BOMBING AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT OF THE PAGHMAN PLAIN. ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 1, MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED THE KARGHA AREA, CAUSING AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF CASUALTIES. BY AUGUST 2, AFGHAN SOURCES WERE REPORTING THAT SOVIET/REGIME FORCES WERE IN FIRM CONTROL OF PAGHMAN TOWN, AND IN ADDITION CONTROLLED POSTS AT PIR BILAND, CHANDAL BAYI, CHESHME BULBUL AND PUSHTE BADAM. MUJAHIDIN FORCES CONTROLLED THE AREA AROUND SEY GUMBAT TO THE SOUTHEAST AND FAJA

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MUSAFER TO THE NORTH. SOVIET/REGIME FORCES REPORTEDLY TOOK HEAVY LOSSES REINFORCING PAGHMAN. OF THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 4, DIPLOMATS NOTED THAT PORTIONS OF THE KARGHA

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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAF, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

GOLF COURSE NEAR THE DAM HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY WHAT
APPEARED TO BE A SOVIET REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS UNIT.SOVIET AERIAL, ROCKET AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT OF
MUJAHIDIN POSITIONS CONTINUES THROUGH AUGUST 6. ON

AUGUST 7, DIPLOMATS NOTED THAT THE SOVIET UNITS

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OCCUPYING PORTIONS OF THE GOLF COURSE, HAD LEFT THE AREA. RA AND KHAD PERSONNEL GUARDING THE KARGHA ROAD SAID THAT THE LAKE AREA WOULD BE OPEN TO FOREIGNERS LATER THAT AFTERNOON, AND THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE BATTLE FOR PAGHMAN WAS OVER. FROM THE EVIDENCE THAT IS AVAILABLE IT APPEARS THAT MUJAHIDIN FORCES HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM SOME POSITIONS CLOSE TO PAGHMAN, ARE STILL PRESENT IN THE AREA IN FORCE. ON AUGUST 4, ON THE ROAD TO MAIDAN SHAHR AT CHOWKI ARGANDEH (NOT LOCATED), MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED A CHECKPOINT, KILLING THREE RA SOLDIERS AND WOUNDING TWO.

5. (U) KABUL NORTH: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT MUJAHIDIN APPEARED TO BE DOING WELL IN THE SHOMALI. ALTHOUGH SOVIET ARTILLERY BOMBARDED MUJAHIDIN POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, PARTICULARLY IN THE SHAKAR DARREH AREA, SOVIET AIR POWER AND GROUND FORCES DID NOT APPEAR TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE, LEAVING RA TROOPS EXPOSED. ON AUGUST 1, MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED RA POSITIONS AT KALAKAN

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KABUL 01961 03 OF 09 080805Z (34°47'N 69°09'E), KILLING FOUR SOLDIERS. THERE WAS ALSO FIGHTING AT MIR BACHEH KOWT (34°45'N 69°08'E), WHERE MUJAHIDIN KILLED FOUR RA TROOPS. ON AUGUST 1-2 AND ALSO ON AUGUST 5, MUJAHIDIN BRIEFLY BLOCKED THE SALANG ROAD AT QALA MURAD BEG (34°39'N 69°05'E), JUST TO THE SOUTH OF THE SOVIET BASE AT HOSAIN KOT. AFGHANS REPORT THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF REGIME TRANSPORT VEHICLES WERE CAPTURED BY MUJAHIDIN. ON AUGUST 3, A GROUP OF 150-160 TASLIMI (MUJAHIDIN DEFECTORS) AT QARABAGH (IN THE EXTREME NORTH OF KABUL PROVINCE ON THE SALANG ROAD) RE-DEFECTED TO MUJAHIDIN.

6. (U) KABUL SOUTH: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT FOLLOWING A SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AREA LAST WEEK, MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN SEVERAL REGIME POSTS NEAR AYNAK (34°17'N 69°29'E). AFGHANS REPORT THAT THE CHAR DEH AREA JUST SOUTH OF KABUL IS UNDER COMPLETE MUJAHIDIN CONTROL AT NIGHT (CHAR DEH CONTAINS THE COMMUNITIES OF GULKHANA, CHILSTOON AND CHAHAR ASIAB). AFGHAN SOURCES ALSO REPORT HEAVY BOMBING IN THE KABUL SOUTH REGION, PARTICULARLY AROUND YAKHDARA (34°25'N 69°17'E), KHURD KABUL (34°23'N 69°23'E) AND CHAKARAY (34°21'N 69°26'E). THIS GENERAL AREA HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF MANY MUJAHIDIN ROCKET ATTACKS ON KABUL IN PREVIOUS WEEKS.

7. (U) KABUL EAST: FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN KOHE SAFI EARLY IN THE WEEK. FROM AUGUST 2-3, THERE WAS FIGHTING ALONG THE JALALABAD ROAD. MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED AN OUTPOST NORTH OF SORUBI, KILLING TWO RA SOLDIERS.

8. (U) WARDAK: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT ALTHOUGH THE REGIME CONTROLS THE CITY OF MAIDAN SHAHR OUTSIDE OF

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TOWN MUJAHIDIN COMMANDERS ARE IN COMPLETE CONTROL. **
CIVILIAN TRAFFIC ALONG ROADS FROM MAIDAN SHAHR IS RARE. **
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ASEC, UR, AF

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HOWEVER, THOSE TRAVELERS WHO DO V

NTUCE FO??H USUAL?Y?

ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A ROAD TAX TO MUJAHIDIN (ABOUT 50ZAFGHANIS), AND

TO OBTAIN A SAFE PASSAGE DOCUMENT: FROM

ONE COMMANDER TO BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT COMMANDER: DOWN

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THE ROAD. ACCORDING TO AFGHANS, LIVING IN THE AREA, MOST SMALL TOWNS IN THE INTERIOR OF NARPAK ARE BLACKED OUT AT NIGHT, BECAUSE IN THESE AREAS SOVIET/REGIME AIRCRAFT BOMB ANY LIGHT THEY SEE.

9. (U) PARWAN: AFGHANS REPORT THAT MUJAHIDIN CONTROL THE AREA IN AND AROUND GOLBAHAR (35°09"N 69°17"E). RECENTLY, NINE KHAD/PARCHAMI PERSONNEL DEFECTED WITH GUNS AND EQUIPMENT TO MUJAHIDIN. THEY ARE NOW ON THEIR WAY TO PANJSHIR.

10. (U) NANGARHAR: SINCE JULY 28, HINDUS FLEEING TO KABUL ESTIMATE THAT UP TO 60 MUJAHIDIN ROCKETS HAVE HIT JALALABAD. REGIME MEDIA REPORT THAT FIVE PERSONS WERE KILLED IN A ROCKET ATTACK ON JALALABAD ON JULY 31. AFGHANS REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 5, THREE ROCKETS HIT A HIGH SCHOOL, KILLING NINE AND INJURING TEN. GOVERNMENT FORCES REPLIED BY ROCKETING OUTLYING AREAS OF JALALABAD

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WITH BM-21 FIRE. ON AUGUST 6, A MUJAHIDIN ROCKETING KILLED THREE PERSONS. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATS AND AFGHANS, ABOUT 2000 HINDUS HAVE FLED TO KABUL FROM JALALABAD SINCE JULY 28. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER HAVE ALSO FLED TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN. AFGHANS REPORT THAT REGIME FORCES AND CRIMINALS HAVE LOOTED THE HOMES OF HINDUS WHO HAVE FLED THE CITY, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW PREVENTING OTHER HINDUS FROM LEAVING JALALABAD. PERIODICALLY, THE JALALABAD-KABUL ROAD HAS BEEN CLOSED BY MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS. ON JULY 28, IT WAS CLOSED FOR A FEW HOURS AT SARKUNDO BABA (34°30"N 70°00"E) IN KABUL PROVINCE, ON AUGUST 1 NEAR SORUBI, AND ON AUGUST 2 NEAR JALALABAD. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATS, MUJAHIDIN LEADER YOUNIS KHALIS IS PUBLICLY ADVISING RESIDENTS TO LEAVE JALALABAD. AFGHANS REPORT THAT SHAB NAMA TO THIS EFFECT WERE DISTRIBUTED IN JALALABAD ON AUGUST 4 AND 5.

11. (U) LOGAR: ACCORDING TO AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, MOHAMMAD AGHA AND KOLANGAR ARE ONCE AGAIN UNDER MUJAHIDIN CONTROL. THE SUPPLY CONVOY MENTIONED IN LAST WEEK'S SITREP REACHED GARDEZ, BUT ONLY AFTER TAKING SIDE ROADS AND LOSING ONE THIRD OF ITS VEHICLES. ON AUGUST 1, A SECOND CONVOY LEFT KABUL FOR GARDEZ CONSISTING OF 50-60 VEHICLES, AND A THIRD LEFT KABUL FOR GARDEZ ON AUGUST 4. DIPLOMATS BELIEVE THIS MAY MEAN THAT GARDEZ, IN PAKTIA PROVINCE, IS UNDER SERIOUS MUJAHIDIN PRESSURE. ON AUGUST 3, REGIME MEDIA CLAIMED TO HAVE CAPTURED 47 MUJAHIDIN ROCKETS IN LOGAR AND PAGHMAN. REPORTEDLY, MANY OF THE ROCKETS HAD ARABIC INSCRIPTIONS ON THEM.

12. (U) PAKTIA: THERE IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 4 MUJAHIDIN SHOT DOWN AN AB-26 AIRCRAFT OVER KHOSH, KILLING 45 RA SOLDIERS. REGIME MEDIA CLAIM THAT

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TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED WHEN A MINE PLANTED BY MUJAHIDIN BLEW UP A VEHICLE ON THE GARDEZ

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FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUND

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MDPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

SAYED KARAM ROAD.

13. (U) GHAZNI: ACCORDING TO AFGHANS, ON JULY 31 A BOMB

IN THE CENTER OF GHAZNI TOWN KILLED 12 AND WOUNDED

FIVE. AT QARABAGH, AFGHANS REPORT THERE WAS FIGHTING

BETWEEN MUJAHIDIN AND REGIME TROOPS, WHICH RESULTED IN

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THE CAPTURE OF 20 RA SOLDIERS, TWO JEEPS AND AN AMMUNITION TRUCK. SEVEN MUJAHIDIN WERE REPORTED INJURED. 14. (U) BAMIAN: AFGHANS REPORT THAT HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN BAMIAN PROVINCE. KABUL RESIDENTS JOURNEYING TO BAMIAN TO GATHER WOOD HAVE BEEN TURNED BACK BY GOVERNMENT FORCES, WHO SAY THE ROAD TO BAMIAN IS CLOSED AND IS DANGEROUS.

15. (U) BAGHLAN: ACCORDING TO AFGHANS, THE FOOD SITUATION IN BAGHLAN IS VERY POOR. AGRICULTURE IN THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN RUINED BY THE WAR AND SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS ARE LOW.

16. (U) KANDAHAR: ACCORDING TO REGIME MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, AS OF AUGUST 4 SOVIET FORCES HAD COMPLETED THEIR PULLOUT FROM KANDAHAR. A PORTION OF THE SOVIET CONTINGENT WAS EVACUATED BY AIR. THE REMAINDER
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ARE MOVING ALONG WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT BY ROAD TO HERAT. REPORTEDLY, THE LAST SOVIET SOLDIER TO LEAVE KANDAHAR WAS A SOVIET OFFICER WHO DROVE HIS JEEP UP TO THE WAITING IL-76, WALKED UP THE RAMP, AND THREW HIS CAR KEYS BACK ONTO THE FRONT SEAT OF THE JEEP. THE VEHICLE WAS LEFT ON THE TARMAC FOR AFGHAN TROOPS TO DRIVE OFF. ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, THE SITUATION IN KANDAHAR CITY IS VERY BAD. REGIME MEDIA ADMITTED ON AUGUST 3 THAT OVER 70 PERCENT OF KANDAHAR'S HOUSING HAS "BEEN DAMAGED OR RAZED TO THE GROUND," AND THAT THE MAIN ROADS OF THE CITY, LAST PAVED 22 YEARS AGO, HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. COMBAT CONTINUES IN AND AROUND KANDAHAR. MUJAHIDIN HAVE BEEN ATTACKING ARGANDAB FOR THE LAST 40 DAYS, LOSING SOME 100 MEN IN THE PROCESS. ON AUGUST 5, TRAVELLERS REPORT THAT KANDAHAR AIRPORT, RECENTLY REOPENED, WAS CLOSED "DUE TO WEATHER" (READ MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES). KABUL AIRPORT SOURCES REPORT THAT AFGHAN CASUALTIES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE FROM KANDAHAR. IN RECENT DAYS, AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORT THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF REGIME TROOPS AND AMMUNITION HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO KANDAHAR VIA REGIME AN-12'S. THE AMMUNITION REPORTEDLY ARRIVES IN KABUL VIA IL-76'S FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

17. (U) HERAT: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT MUJAHIDIN ARE CONDUCTING ROCKET ATTACKS ON THE CITY OF HERAT. REGIME MEDIA CLAIMS THAT ON AUGUST 2 SEVEN PERSONS DIED IN SUCH AN ATTACK, WHILE ON AUGUST 3 SEVEN PERSONS DIED DURING A FIREFIGHT IN THE ENJIL DISTRICT OF HERAT.

18. (U) KONDUZ: DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AND REGIME MEDIA REPORT THAT BY AUGUST 4 SOVIET TROOPS WERE WITHDRAWING FROM KONDUZ. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC SOURCE,
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MUJAHIDIN ARE NOW ROCKETING THE CITY OF KONDUZ NIGHTLY
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SVC-00	INRE-00	RP-10	ACDA-12	SP-02	SR-06	SNP-01
C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9727

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC 2636

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

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ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

THE MAIN BAZAAR IS OPEN ONLY 3-4 HOURS PER DAY, FOUR

DAYS A WEEK. MANY SHOPKEEPERS ARE OPENLY DISPLAYING

PICTURES OF AHMAD SHAH MASUD.

19. (U) MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

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A. SOVIET WITHDRAWAL. ON AUGUST 4, RADIO AFGHANISTAN CLAIMED THAT OVER 43,000 SOVIET TROOPS HAD RETURNED TO THE USSR. (COMMENT: THIS ASSERTION IS FAR IN EXCESS OF SOVIET CLAIMS.) ON AUGUST 5, SOVIET GENERAL GROMOV STATED THAT SOVIET UNITS LEAVING KONDUZ AND KANDAHAR SHOULD BE AT THE USSR-AFGHANISTAN BORDER IN SIX DAYS. REGIME MEDIA HAS ALSO REPORTED THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES FROM LASHKARGAH (HELMAND PROVINCE).

B. SOVIET DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR SHEVARDNADE FLIGHT. ACCORDING TO WESTERN DIPLOMATS, THE FOLLOWING DEFENSIVE TACTICS WERE EMPLOYED BY SOVIET AIR FORCES TO ENSURE FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADE'S SAFETY DURING THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FROM KABUL AIRPORT AT 1445 AUGUST 7. FIVE MINUTES BEFORE TAKEOFF, EIGHT MI-24 HIND HELICOPTERS BEGAN CIRCLING OVER THE AIRPORT, FOUR IN A TIGHT CIRCLE AT THE NW END, FOUR AT THE SE END. AS

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SHEVARDNADE'S PLANE TOOK OFF, THE HELICOPTERS BEGAN DROPPING FLARES. SIMULTANEOUSLY, SIX CLUSTERS OF PARACHUTE FLARES WERE DROPPED BY JETS LOITERING ABOVE CLOUD COVER (14 FLARES PER CLUSTER). AS THE TU-154 CORKSCREWED UPWARDS OVER CENTRAL KABUL IN A TIGHT CLIMB, THE HELICOPTERS CONTINUED TO DROP FLARES IN THE AIRPORT AREA. AFTER THE FOURTH (5) PLANES HAD ESTABLISHED SUFFICIENT ALTITUDE AND SET OFF ON A BEARING FOR MOSCOW.

C. DEATH BENEFITS. ACCORDING TO AFGHANS, IF A SOVIET SOLDIER DIES IN COMBAT IN AFGHANISTAN, HIS FAMILY GETS THREE LAKHS (ABOUT 1400 DOLLARS) IN COMPENSATION. IF AN AFGHAN SOLDIER IS KILLED, AND HIS FAMILY LIVES IN KABUL, HIS SURVIVORS MIGHT GET SOME DEATH BENEFIT, BUT ONLY A PITTANCE. PERSONS LIVING OUTSIDE THE KABUL AREA RARELY GET ANYTHING AT ALL.

20. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

A. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, LAST WEEK THE COUSIN OF AN INTERPRETER AT A WESTERN EMBASSY -- A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN WHO NORMALLY DRESSED IN WESTERN CLOTHES -- WAS APPROACHED BY TWO AFGHANS AND DOUSED WITH ACID. SHE IS CURRENTLY IN HOSPITAL WITH SEVERE BURNS ON HER FACE AND CHEST. AFGHANS BELIEVE THAT THE ACID WAS THROWN BY FOLLOWERS OF GULBUDDIN HEKMATYAR, AND THAT IT WAS DONE BECAUSE THE WOMAN WAS CONSIDERED TO BE IMMODEST. (COMMENT: THIS STORY IS REMINISCENT OF THOSE PASSED ABOUT HEKMATYAR'S ACTIVITIES DURING HIS DAYS AT KABUL UNIVERSITY. IT, THEREFORE, MAY BE REGIME DISINFORMATION.)

21. (U) POLITICAL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS
NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION PARA 19b. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.
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	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/107 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9728

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INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC 2637

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

A. SHEVARDNADZE VISIT. SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER EDUARD

SHEVARDNADZE WAS IN KABUL AUGUST 4-7 ON A "WORKING

VISIT". WHILE HERE, HE MET WITH MOST SIGNIFICANT

MEMBERS OF THE KABUL REGIME: LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING:

NAJIBULLAH, PRIME MINISTER HASSAN SHARQ, FOREIGN

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MINISTER ABDUL WAKIL, INTERIOR MINISTER SAYED MOHAMMAD GULABZOI, GEN. SHANAWAZ TANAI, VICE PRESIDENTS ABDULHAMID MOHTAT, MOHAMMAD RAFI AND ABDUL WAHID SURABI, AS WELL AS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOUSE AND SENATE CHAIRMEN ABAWI AND HABIBI, AND SEVERAL PROVINCIAL MILITARY COMMANDERS. SHEVARDNAOZE APPEARS NOT TO HAVE MET WITH KHAD CHIEF YAQUBI. LITTLE IN THE WAY OF SOLID INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISIT HAS SURFACED. DIPLOMATS BELIEVE SHEVARDNAOZE'S PRIMARY PURPOSES IN MAKING THE VISIT WERE TO: 1) REASSURE NAJIBULLAH IN LIGHT OF PRE-AUGUST 15 TROOP WITHDRAWALS, 2) REPORT ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH PAK FM YAQUB KHAN, PARTICULARLY REGARDING SOVIET WARNINGS TO PAKISTAN TO DESIST FROM SUPPORT OF THE MUJAHIDIN, 3) PROMISE CONTINUED MAJOR SOVIET ECONOMIC SUPPORT, AND 4) PERHAPS DISCUSS FUTURE INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

B. GULABZOI'S RETURN. INTERIOR MINISTER GULABZOI'S MEETING WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNAOZE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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AUGUST 6 ENDED THE MYSTERY ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS, BUT QUESTIONS OVER HIS LONG ABSENCE FROM THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATS, GULABZOI WAS FIRST SPOTTED BY WESTERNERS IN KABUL ON JULY 24, ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE BEEN BACK IN THE CITY FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THAT. IN CONTRAST TO PREVAILING PRACTICE BEFORE HIS TRIP TO THE USSR, GULABZOI NOW APPEARS TO BE UNDER GUARD, PERHAPS INDICATING THAT SOME KIND OF NEW THREAT EXISTS AGAINST THE INTERIOR MINISTER AND KHALQI FACTION LEADER.

C. REGIME CRITICIZES WESTERN WITHDRAWAL OF DEPENDENTS. IN THE WAKE OF THE HEAVY MID-JULY MUJAHIDIN ROCKET ATTACKS ON KABUL, AND THE DECISION BY MANY EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS, THE KABUL REGIME HAS CRITICIZED THE EVACUATION AS A WESTERN PROPAGANDA MOVE. PRIME MINISTER SHARQ WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF THE WESTERN DECISION TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS DURING A RECENT BBC INTERVIEW (COMMENT: SHARQ'S OWN FAMILY, HOWEVER, IS LIVING IN KHURASAN, IRAN. IN ADDITION, NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID IN REGIME MEDIA ABOUT EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES' EVACUATION MOVES, WHICH ACCORDING TO SOME DIPLOMATS, CLOSELY PARALLEL THOSE MADE BY WESTERN EMBASSIES. END COMMENT). THE LATEST TWIST IN THE KABUL REGIME'S PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DECISION BY MANY WESTERN EMBASSIES TO EVACUATE DEPENDENTS IS TO BLAME PAKISTAN FOR THE ROCKET ATTACKS ON KABUL AND FOR THE DEPARTURE OF SOME WESTERN EMBASSY DEPENDENTS. MEANWHILE, THE SHOPKEEPERS IN CHITKED STREET ARE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE EVACUATION OF

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DEPENDENTS WILL MEAN FOR THEIR THRIVING BUSINESSES.

D. KABUL POWER FAILURES, ENERGY SHORTAGES, ACCORDING
 TO OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THE ELECTRIC POWER
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	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01
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	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	OSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DIA WASHDC

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

SITUATION IN KABUL IS POOR. TWO OF THE CITY'S FOUR

HYDROELECTRIC POWER LINES HAVE BEEN BLOWN UP BY

MUJAHIDIN, AND KABUL'S TWO BACKUP DESGL PLANTS ARE

SHORT OF FUEL. MEANWHILE, THE REGIME HAS ANNOUNCED THAT

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ALL MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND ENTERPRISES SHOULD REDUCE THEIR FUEL CONSUMPTION BY 30 PERCENT, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF THE FUEL SHORTAGE. ~~DIPLOMATS NOTE THAT WHILE~~ POWER SHORTAGES ARE COMMON IN WINTER, USUALLY THERE IS ENOUGH ELECTRICAL POWER IN THE SUMMER. THIS INDICATES THAT THE WINTER OF 1988-89 COULD BE ONE IN WHICH POWER SHORTAGES WILL BE MUCH MORE SEVERE THAN USUAL.

E. KABUL MEDIA REPORTED ON AUGUST 4 THAT REGIME DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARWAP MANGAL HAD RETURNED TO KABUL FROM MOSCOW AFTER SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION FOR FIFTY MILLION RUBLES IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR GEOLOGY SURVEYS AND GAS EXPLORATION. THE FIFTY MILLION RUBLES WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE RA THROUGH GAS DELIVERED TO THE USSR.

22. (U) MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS

A. VOSTROV ARTICLE. THE AUGUST 4 EDITION OF THE KABUL CONFIDENTIAL

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TIMES CONTAINED AN ARTICLE BY COL. GEN. ADIMIR

VOST (#) KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, WHICH

CRITICIZED THE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY MAJ. GEN. KIM TSAGOLOV IN OGONEK THE WEEK BEFORE. VOSTROV FAULTED TSAGOLOV FOR LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH THE CURRENT SCENE IN AFGHANISTAN, AND CAST DOUBT ON TSAGOLOV'S CONCLUSION THAT THE NAJIBULLAH REGIME COULD NOT SURVIVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS. COMMENT: TYPICALLY, KABUL MEDIA HAVE NOT PUBLISHED THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE BY TSAGOLOV, WHICH VOSTROV'S ARTICLE WAS DESIGNED TO REBUT.

B. NO AIDS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE AUGUST 2 EDITION OF HEWAD CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1987 OF A CENTRAL BLOOD BANK FOR ALL OF AFGHANISTAN. THE ARTICLE INCLUDED AN INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE BLOOD BANK'S MANAGERS, WHO NOTED THAT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 A TOTAL OF 917 BLOOD SAMPLES WERE TESTED FOR THE AIDS VIRUS AND ALL WERE NEGATIVE.

23. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

AFTER NAJIB WHAT? RUMORS HAVE CONTINUED TO PROLIFERATE ABOUT NAJIB'S IMPENDING POLITICAL DEMISE. THE RUMORS HAVE PERSISTED EVEN AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARNADZE'S VISIT TO KABUL. IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTED IN KABUL 1917, THE FOLLOWING NEW STORIES HAVE COME TO LIGHT:

A. NAJIB EXILED TO ROME. ACCORDING TO A LIBYAN WITH CONNECTIONS IN THE AFGHAN POLITBURO, NAJIB HAS PROBLEMS WITH EVERYONE--PARCHAMI AND KHALQI, AND IN TWO WEEKS WILL BE GOING TO ITALY. HE WILL RESIGN ON AUGUST 19, AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, AND WHEN IN ITALY HE WILL MEET WITH ZAHIR SHAH.

B. MILITARY GOVERNMENT. ~~SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATS REPORT A~~

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ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 1 - 7

RUMOR THAT GENERAL ABQUL QADIR, DEFENSE MINISTER UNDER

TARAKI, THEN AMBASSADOR IN POLAND, AND UNTIL RECENTLY

RESIDING IN BULGARIA, HAS COME BACK TO KABUL TO PLAY A

ROLE IN A PROSPECTIVE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AFTER NAJIB

C. COALITION GOVERNMENT. A WESTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT

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REPORTS A RUMOR THAT DR. MOHAMMAD YUSUF, ELDERLY FORMER PRIME MINISTER UNDER ZAHIR SHAH IN THE MID-1960'S, HAS BEEN INVITED BY PRIME MINISTER CHARGED TO RETURN FROM EXILE IN WEST GERMANY AND TAKE PART IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

POISON GAS: SEVERAL UNCONFIRMED REPORTS HAVE SURFACED THIS WEEK REGARDING THE ALLEGED USE OR PROSPECTIVE USE OF POISON GAS. AN AFGHAN SOURCE SAYS THAT DURING THE BATTLE FOR PAGHMAN THIS WEEK, THE SOVIETS USED POISON GAS--TABUN--TO ROOT OUT SOME MUJAHIDIN HIDDEN IN CAVES IN THE AREA. A MUJAHIDIN SOURCE SAYS THAT FIGHTERS IN THE PAGHMAN AREA SUCCESSFULLY WARDED OFF THE EFFECTS OF POISON GAS BY SURROUNDING THEMSELVES WITH A RING OF BURNING TIRES. FINALLY, RADIO MOSCOW BROADCAST ON AUGUST 5 AN ACCUSATION BY SOVIET MFA PRESS SPOKESMAN PERFIYEV THAT HEZBI-ISLAMI (GULBUDDIN) PLANS TO USE POISON GAS AGAINST CIVILIANS IN NANGARHAR (I.E.,

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JALALABAD) AND KABUL. ANOTHER AFGHAN REGIME ALLEGATION HAS SURFACED CONCERNING MUJAHIDIN USE OF GAS AGAINST A VILLAGE ON JULY 3. WE HAVE NO CORROBORATION FOR ANY OF THESE REPORTS.

SOVIET POWS: MULTIPLE AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT LAST WEEK IN THE TOWN OF ZAIMANI (34°28'N 68°40'E) MUJAHIDIN WERE HOLDING SEVERAL SOVIET PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING THE FIGHTING IN PAGHMAN, INCLUDING A SOVIET PILOT. IN ADDITION, TWO INDIAN CITIZENS, A MAN AND A WOMAN, WERE BEING HELD PRISONER. ACCORDING TO ONE AFGHAN SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED THE INDIANS IN COMBAT AND BELIEVE THEM TO BE WORKING AS MILITARY ADVISERS FOR THE KABUL REGIME. THE PRISONER COLUMN PASSED THROUGH ZAIMANI AROUND AUGUST 2 ON ITS WAY TOWARDS THE PAKISTANI BORDER.

THERE ARE NO AMERICANS HERE. AN AFGHAN EMPLOYEE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY VISITED PAGHMAN EARLIER THIS WEEK. HE FOUND SHELL CASINGS LITTERING THE STREETS AND CONSIDERABLE DESTRUCTION IN THE TOWN, WHICH IS CURRENTLY HELD BY SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES. VENTURING UP INTO THE HILLS TO GATHER WOOD FOR HIS FAMILY, HE WAS CONFRONTED BY A MUJAHIDIN PATROL. WHEN ASKED WHO HE WAS AND WHAT HE WAS DOING, THE MAN REPLIED THAT HE WORKED FOR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KABUL AND WAS GATHERING WOOD FOR HIS FAMILY. "THAT CANNOT BE TRUE," ONE MUJAHIDIN REPLYED SAID. "THERE ARE NO AMERICANS IN KABUL." EVENTUALLY, OUR EMPLOYEE SOMEHOW CONVINCED HIS CAPTORS TO LET HIM GO, AND HE RETURNED TO KABUL. CLASSMAN

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